

MILEPOST



THE
**MICHIGAN
BICENTENNIAL
HIGHWAY**



To Travelers on Michigan's "Bicentennial Freedom Way":

A primary objective of the Bicentennial celebration is to provide opportunities for citizens and visitors to learn about this land, its history and its people. The Michigan Bicentennial Commission, therefore, is especially pleased to make available to you this I-75 Milepost Log. We hope it will make your travel more pleasurable and strengthen your interest in this diverse and beautiful state with its rich store of natural resources and creative, industrious citizens.

The Commission takes pride in noting that this Milepost Log is a product of the combined resources of state agencies and private business joining together to honor Michigan's contributions to the development of this great nation.



Sincerely,

James J. Damman
Lieutenant Governor and
Chairman, Michigan
Bicentennial Commission

Michigan's

FREEDOM WAY



The printing of this book is provided by Winkelman's and Automobile Club of Michigan as a Bicentennial project.

ABOUT THE LOG...

On August 8, 1975, the Michigan Senate adopted Concurrent Resolution No. 216, reading in part as follows:

Whereas, Interstate 75 is this state's longest freeway extending almost 400 miles from the Ohio border and north across the Straits of Mackinac to the Canadian border at Sault Ste. Marie; and

Whereas, Interstate 75 passes through Michigan's two oldest cities, Sault Ste. Marie and Detroit, both of which were established prior to the American Revolution. Also, the freeway's number -75- coincides with the year in which the American Revolution began. Additionally, I-75 is the only highway in Michigan that is a segment of an Interstate Highway extending the full length of this Nation, . . .

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring) That, by all present, the Michigan legislature designate I-75 in Michigan as Michigan's Bicentennial Freedom Way as part of the state's official observance of the Nation's two hundredth anniversary, . . .

This is a record of natural, geological, historical, agricultural, structural and industrial features that can be seen as one travels I-75. It is referenced to the mileposts, with 0 being at the Ohio line and 394 at Sault Ste. Marie, the northern terminus.

The log is generally oriented for northbound travelers and adapted for use southbound. Southbound travelers start at the back and work toward the front, milepost markers being the same on both sides of the Freedom Way (for example, 25 going north is opposite 25 going south).

An effort was made to designate markers exactly opposite each feature described in the log. When this was not possible, the nearest marker to the south was selected. Therefore, southbound travelers should anticipate that the feature may be somewhat ahead of the reference milepost.

The side of the freeway on which a feature is located is indicated by the following symbols:

- NS▲ — on the northbound side
- SS▲ — on the southbound side

These symbols appear at the beginning of each explanation. If there is no symbol, the feature occupies both sides.

In a number of cases, the feature covers several miles of freeway, the various counties, for instance, so the description for the **approaching** traveler must be at different mileposts for northbound and southbound travel. This is accomplished by placing an **S** after certain milepost numbers indicating they should be used by **southbound travelers only**. If there is no **S**, then the number applies to both northbound and southbound travel.

You will more fully understand the explanations, especially geologic terms, if you first read the brief human and geologic histories on the following pages. If you wish to learn more about Michigan or a particular feature identified in this log, please contact the Travel Bureau, Michigan Department of Commerce, 3200 S. Capitol, Lansing, Michigan 48926.

When completed, I-75 will be 1,716 miles long — from Sault Ste. Marie to Miami, Florida — with nearly one fourth of it in Michigan. It passes through six states — Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida, and is part of the nation's 42,500 mile system of interstate highways.

A BRIEF HISTORY...

Michigan was admitted to the Union in 1837, the 26th state. The name is considered to be derived from the Indian words "Michi-gama", meaning "large lake".

Its recorded history is among the longest of any of the states, dating from 1641 when two French missionaries following the northern route through Canada reached the rapids (St. Mary's) at the foot of Lake Superior, which they named Sault de Sainte Marie. At that time, lower Michigan was generally occupied by Huron, Potawatomi and Miami Indians and the northern part by Chippewa (Ojibway) and Ottawa.

For a century this land often served as a pawn in the treaty bartering that settled the series of wars between the British and French from 1689 to 1815. It was ceded to the United States in 1783 by the Treaty of Paris that terminated the Revolutionary War. Active settlement began in 1825 when the opening of the Erie Canal made Michigan accessible to eastern immigrants.

Blessed with vast natural resources, Michigan has been a leader in quick succession in the production of fur, fish, copper ore, iron ore, and lumber. Each created turbulent, fascinating periods in the state's history, and now its resources of lakes, streams, shorelands, forests, fields and marshes make it one of the leading recreation states in the nation. Called the Water Wonderland, there are 11,037 inland lakes, and a 3,200 mile shoreline surpassed only by Alaska. Industrially, this state is the capital of auto manufacturing, which has dominated the nation's industrial scene during this century. While not considered a leading agricultural state, it is, nevertheless, the foremost producer of navy beans, red tart cherries, cucumbers and sugar beets, and a Michigan farmer now holds the world's record for corn production.

In 1970, the population was 8,875,083, 7th among the 50 states.

GEOLOGIC HISTORY

The geologic history of this area of Michigan is portrayed in bedrock of the Paleozoic Era, and deposits of the Pleistocene Epoch (Ice Age).

The bedrock was deposited as sands and muds or precipitated out of solution as limestone, gypsum, or halite (ordinary table salt) in the relatively shallow warm seas of the Paleozoic Era, 600 million to 230 million years ago, and subsequently compacted and cemented together to form the various layers that make up the bedrock today.

After the close of the Paleozoic Era, five hundred thousand to two million years ago, a major climatic change occurred with far reaching effects. A general cooling resulted in the formation of ice sheets of continental size that moved out of the Hudson Bay region and gradually covered much of North America. Interglacial periods of warmer temperatures allowed them to melt back periodically. Four times continental glaciers flowed out of the north, but you will be seeing the effects of only the last advance and retreat called the Wisconsin stage of the Pleistocene Epoch (Ice Age), which covered or obliterated evidence of earlier ice sheets. In crossing Michigan, the ice separated into lobes and flowed down stream valleys located where the Great Lakes are today, widening and deepening the valleys to form the basins of the present-day Great Lakes.

The ice sheet picked up, moved and deposited tremendous amounts of debris, as the glacial deposits are a thousand feet thick in places. These deposits make up most of the landforms you will be seeing as you travel I-75. Most of the landforms fall into distinct types according to the following geologic terms:

Till — One of the two general types of glacial deposits, material deposited directly by the ice — a heterogeneous mixture of clay, silt, sand, gravel, and occasionally boulders.

Moraine — A ridge of till built up along the front (end moraines) and sides (lateral moraines) of the ice lobes. Moraines represent a stand or position of the ice over a long period of time. Most of the high hills in the southern peninsula are moraines. "Recessional moraines" are end moraines marking lines of temporary halt in the general retreat of the ice front across the countryside.

Till Plain — (sometimes called ground moraine) A thin till cover left when the ice melted back at a relatively rapid rate forming gently rolling or hummocky land.

Outwash — The other general type of glacial deposit; material reworked, sorted, washed and transplanted by glacial meltwaters. It tends to be coarse grained, such as sand and gravel, and provides the large amounts of sand and gravel now mined in Michigan. Outwash takes many forms, the principal ones being:

kames — coned shaped hills of sand and gravel

eskers — long curving ridges of sand and gravel deposited in tunnels in or under the ice

outwash plains — material deposited in front of the ice by meltwaters streaming away from it.

Glacial Lake Sediment — As the ice melted back, tremendous volumes of meltwater became ponded between the ice lobes and the moraines forming the various glacial lakes that existed in Michigan in the immediate geologic past. In time, the lakes retreated into the present Great Lakes basins leaving a sedimentary deposit of fine grained sands and clays.

- 0 Monroe County, named for President James Monroe, was first occupied by French in 1700's. It is a gateway to Michigan, has a long and fascinating history, fertile farmland, abundant wildlife areas, industry — a diverse, interesting area.
- 0-26 . . . NS➤ The area between I-75 and Lake Erie was once a continuous marsh providing a buffer between Lake Erie and the flat upland of the dried up ancient lakebed. It was ideal waterfowl habitat. Though now largely drained, filled and developed, it is still an important segment of Mississippi Waterfowl Flyway. Once owned by wealthy sportsmen for hunting clubs, portions are now in public ownership as part of Sterling State Park, Erie State Game Area, and Pte. Mouille State Game Area.
- 2 NS➤ A common sight in Monroe County: an earthen dike for farmland flood protection from Lake Erie. Michigan's farmers promote and implement such land conserving measures through 85 Soil Conservation Districts.
- 7 SS➤ Field drainage ditch. These commonplace looking ditches are essential to agriculture in this area because of high water level. In conjunction with underfield tile, they remove excess surface water creating excellent growing conditions.
- 9 Directly west of here $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles, farmer Orville Montri in 1974 set a world's record for corn production, 303.36 bu. (9 tons) per acre. Appropriately, some of the earliest traces of planted corn were found in Monroe County, grown by the Indians, 700-1100 A.D.
- 10 NS About $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from I-75 are the 800 foot stacks of probably the world's largest coal fired electric generating plant, built by Detroit Edison. Consumes 24,000 tons of coal per day, ground fine as talcum powder. Stacks, part of pollution control system, are tallest concrete structures in state.
- 13 SS➤ Monroe, one of Michigan's oldest cities, the only Michigan port on Lake Erie, home of General George Custer and noted for many fine, well-preserved 19th century homes. Museum contains largest collection of Custer lore in nation.
- 14 SS➤ On the north side of the river, one-half mile away is the site of the Battle of River Raisin, a major conflict between U.S. troops and Kentucky militia under General James Winchester, and the British and their Indian allies — War of 1812. It was a disastrous defeat. Of the 934 American troops, 397 were killed or missing, 536 were prisoners, only 73 escaped. The most severe armed conflict to occur on Michigan soil. Archaeological investigation is now underway to authentically locate battlefield sites.
- 22 NS➤ Two miles away are the parabolic cooling towers of Fermi-2, the nuclear power plant Detroit Edison plans to complete in 1980. Capacity — 1,100,000 kilowatts, one of world's largest.
- 25 SS➤ This area is typical of a condition occurring on the fringes of expanding urban areas — the mixing of urban uses of the land with agricultural uses. This ultimately results in loss of land for farms and is cause for particular concern when prime farm land, such as these glacial lake plains, is converted to other uses.

Due to continuing construction in Monroe County, Mileposts 0 through 26 will not be erected in 1976.

0-25

You are now traveling on a glacial lake plain, very favorable for farming. As the Erie Lobe of the last glacier (18,000-13,500 years ago) melted back, "till" was deposited. Later when glacial meltwater covered this area, the till was reworked by waves, flattened and covered by lake sediment. The thickness of the rich fine grained deposit varies from zero to many feet.

14

You are crossing the River Raisin. The colonial French surveyors platted land at right angles to river banks in long narrow fields, ribbon farms, along this and several other streams. These "French" claims still exist today.

MONROE CO.

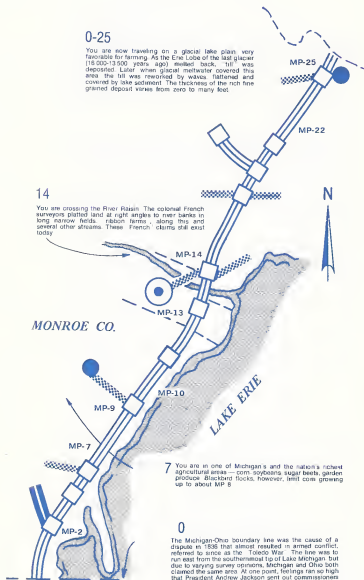
LAKE ERIE

7

You are in one of Michigan's and the nation's richest agricultural areas — corn, soybeans, sugar beets, garden produce. Blackbird flocks, however, limit corn growing up to about MP 8.

0

The Michigan-Ohio boundary line was the cause of a dispute in 1836 that almost resulted in armed conflict, referred to since as the "Toledo War". The line was to run east from the southernmost tip of Lake Michigan, but due to varying survey opinions, Michigan and Ohio both claimed the same area. At one point, feelings ran so high that President Andrew Jackson sent out commissioners to arbitrate the dispute. The outcome was that Ohio won the "War" — but Michigan gained the Upper Peninsula.



- 29 SS➤ Ford's Michigan Casting Center. The melting and holding capacity of its electric arc furnaces is unsurpassed in the world. In an average day it uses 70 railcars of scrap metal. Note the "earth" colors.
- 31 NS➤ The Chrysler Engine Plant, one of largest in automotive industry, covering 45 acres.
- 32 NS➤ Ford's largest U.S. stamping plant. Production consumes about 2,260 tons of coiled steel per day.
- 35 NS➤ The blue structure is the main export plant of the Chrysler Corporation which packages vehicles and parts for shipment to assembly plants outside the U.S. and Canada.
- 37 SS➤ The remaining overhead arches of an electric railroad owned and operated by Henry Ford in the 1920's. An interesting experiment, which proved too expensive operationally.
- 38 NS➤ An experimental sound barrier designed to fend off objectionable highway noises, particularly on grades where trucks must shift gears.
- 39 SS➤ Sound barrier. See MP 38 description.
- 42 SS➤ The largest oil refinery in Michigan — Marathon Oil Company — 118,000,000 gallons of storage. The "baseball" sphere holds 630,000 gallons of liquified petroleum (bottled gas).
- 43 SS➤ The above-ground structures of International Salt Mines. Beneath you 1100 feet down are miles of underground structures in rock salt of Silurian Age (425 million years ago). This underground city with a street system, workshops, offices is the nation's second largest salt mine. Michigan leads in salt production and has enough to supply the nation for several million years.
- 44 NS➤ The Rouge River Ford Plant, begun in 1915 and carrying mass production beyond any levels then known. The production flow began with raw materials owned by Henry Ford, extracted by him, transported by him to his own factories that performed every operation to complete the finished automobile. After half a century, the Rouge still encompasses most of the basic steps in automobile manufacturing. Final assembly line can turn out one car every 53 seconds. The complex covers 1200 acres.
- 45 NS➤ The tall stacks and silos mark the Peerless Cement Plant, one of the newest and most modern computer-controlled cement plants in the state.
- 45 NS➤ The Fleetwood and Fort Street plants of the Fisher Body Division of General Motors. Cadillac bodies are assembled here, and certain hardware components are produced.
- 47 SS➤ Ambassador Bridge, International Bridge over Detroit River linking Canada and U.S.
- 48 If you are traveling north, directly ahead is a good view of the Skyline of Detroit, sixth largest city in the United States with a population of more than 1.5 million and center of a metropolitan area of nearly five million. First settled by the French in 1701 when Cadillac built Fort Pontchartrain, it later served as a base for devastating British-Indian attacks on settlements in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky during the Revolutionary War.
- 49 NS➤ The home of the Detroit Tigers, seating 54,200. Baseball has been played on this site since 1900. The Tigers were charter members of the American League, born in 1901.

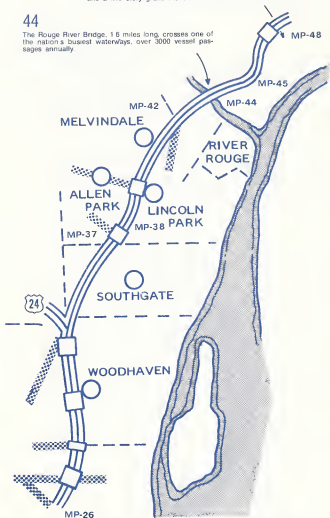


48

For northbound travelers directly ahead is the old Michigan Central Railroad Station, a Detroit landmark for years. Opened in 1913 this elegant Classic Revival building had private baths and dressing rooms, stores, and a five story grand marble concourse.

44

The Rouge River Bridge, 1.6 miles long, crosses one of the nation's busiest waterways, over 3000 vessel passages annually.



26

Wayne County, containing Detroit is an uncommon combination of giant industrial complexes, residential communities of all income levels, 48 miles of waterfront, immense commercial centers, some agriculture (sweet corn capital of Michigan), and a turbulent history. Almost one-third of state's citizens live here. Organized in 1815, before Michigan became a state, this first county initially contained about all of present day Michigan as well as parts of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin.

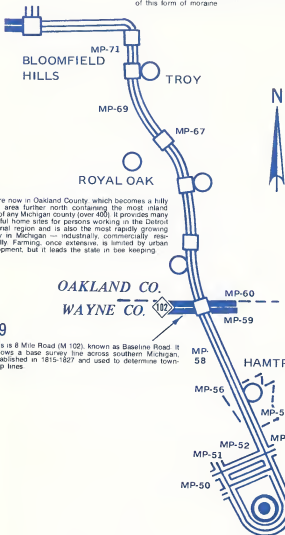
WAYNE CO.

- 50 NS➤ St. John's Episcopal Church built in 1860-61. Excellent example of 19th century Gothic Revival style.
- 51 NS➤ The Stroh Brewery, begun in 1850 and moved to this site in 1865. Still owned and operated by the Stroh family. Ranks sixth or seventh in sales nationally.
- 52 SS➤ Brewster-Douglas Housing Project. One of the first federal redevelopment projects built during the depression (1934) by PWA. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt attended the dedication ceremonies.
- 51-53 . . This is the area of early immigrant communities in Detroit. German, Polish, Jewish settlements grew up here from the 1840's to the early 20th century. Many of the magnificent churches built in that era are still active and clearly visible as you drive I-75.
- 54 NS➤ The Fisher Body Detroit Central Plant facility, primarily engaged in assembling Cadillac limousine bodies.
- 54 NS➤ The 84 acre Chevrolet Gear and Axle Plant, a complex of seven major buildings, and also the Chevrolet Detroit Forge Plant, an important GM manufacturing facility on a 36 acre site.
- 55 NS➤ The City of Hamtramck, a separate municipality entirely within the city limits of Detroit. Initially settled by immigrants from Poland, it proudly retains much of the Polish culture. Named for Col. John Hamtramck, U.S. troop commander at Detroit when British evacuated after close of Revolutionary War.
- 56 SS➤ About one-half mile away, can be seen the old Highland Park Ford Plant — home of the Model T, most popular vehicle in history; the \$5 day, a landmark in labor history, and an assembly line process that evolved into the mass production which altered the world in general. A historic site of international significance, designed by Albert Kahn, built in 1909-10, and now at the end of its economic life.
- 56 NS➤ The Hamtramck Assembly Plant, Chrysler's largest car producing facility, is on the site of the original Dodge Bros. Corporation.
- 58 SS➤ The State Fairground (not visible). America's first State Agricultural Fair was held in Detroit in 1849. The site was often moved until 1905 when it was permanently located at this site.
- 60 S Wayne County. See MP 26.
- 60 This stretch of freeway is an example of pavement "grooving", a new process to improve road surfaces, tire traction and reduce hydro-planing when surfaces are wet. Grooves are 1/10 inch wide, 3/16 inches deep, and 3/4 inches apart.
- 65 NS➤ The Oakland Mall, one of the largest dollar-volume shopping centers in the world. Averages 30,000 shoppers per day in 68 leased tenant stores.
- 71 SS➤ The Northfield Financial Tower, world headquarters of Chrysler Financial Corporation.



73

You are now in the rolling topography of a series of recessional moraines lying west and north of Detroit at the margin of the Erie ice lobe. Note the boulders and cobbles, irregular terrain, lakes and swamps typical of this form of moraine.



60

You are now in Oakland County, which becomes a hilly scenic area further north containing the most inland lakes of any Michigan county (over 400). It provides many beautiful home sites for persons working in the Detroit industrial region and is also the most rapidly growing county in Michigan — industrially, commercially residentially. Farming, once extensive, is limited by urban development, but it leads the state in bee keeping.

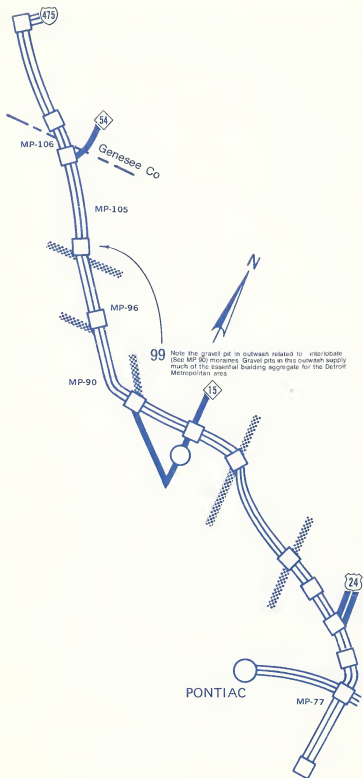
OAKLAND CO.
WAYNE CO.

59

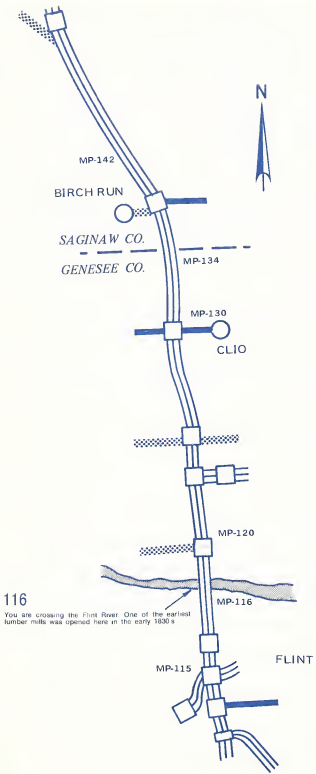
This is 8 Mile Road (M 102), known as Baseline Road. It follows a base survey line across southern Michigan, established in 1815-1827 and used to determine township lines.

HAMTRAMCK

- 77 SS➤ One mile away is the City of Pontiac, named after an Indian Chief who led an uprising against the British in 1763. Primarily an industrial community producing autos and parts — Pontiacs and Fisher bodies. A new (1975) domed sports stadium seating 80,000 is just visible on the southbound side.
- 90 You are now in the "interlobate area" between glacial moraines of the Erie lobe to the southeast and the Saginaw lobe to the northwest.
- 96 You are now traveling through the Holly Recreation Area, 6,800 acres of state-owned land consisting of dense woods, hedge rows, thickets, open fields intermingled with lakes, streams and marshes managed for outdoor recreation, including public hunting, with picnic sites, bridge trails, campgrounds, outpost campsites, trails, and game habitat. It is part of Michigan's system of 83 parks and recreation areas.
- 98 NS➤ About one-fourth mile away is an excellent example of a Michigan farmhouse in the style of the 1800's — often referred to as Victorian.
- 105 You are in a recessional moraine area of the eastern limb of the Saginaw ice lobe. Note the rolling, stony, irregular high terrain and the kettles (undrained depressions that are former sites of isolated blocks of glacial ice.)
- 106 You are now in Genesee County, organized in 1836 and named after a valley in New York state from whence the settlers came. Genesee is the Iroquoian Indian word for "beautiful valley". It has extensive residential areas for persons employed in the Flint industrial zone. Farming increases as the land levels out onto the glacial lakebeds.
- 106 S . . . Oakland County. See MP 60.



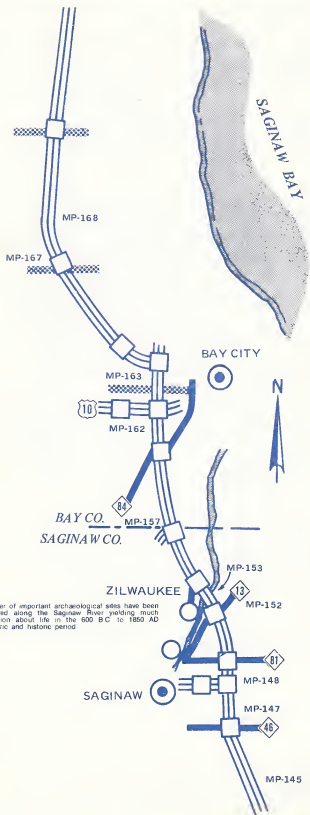
- 115 NS ➤ The City of Flint, home of Buick, Chevrolet, AC Sparkplug Divisions of General Motors — the largest General Motors manufacturing center in the world. William Durant organized GM here.
- 116 NS ➤ These Chevrolet plants cover 405 acres and employ almost 16,000 people. A wide variety of products are manufactured for Chevrolet and other GM models.
- 118 You are in the Flint recessional moraine of the eastern limb of the Saginaw ice lobe, seen as a series of ridges, formed as the last glacier periodically advanced and again retreated. Note the many cobblestones and boulders.
- 130 You are leaving the moraine and passing out onto a flat glacial lake plain which continues for 61 miles to MP 191. The plain developed in the waters of proglacial (in front of glacier) lakes Saginaw, Arkona, Whittlesey and Warren, formed when glacial meltwater was impounded between recessional moraine ridges to the southwest and the retreating glacier to the northeast. The fine-grained lake sediment makes this a rich agricultural area. Very low ridges and sand patches represent glacial lake beaches and sandbars. A few post-glacial streams have eroded shallow valleys into the lake plain.
- 134 You are in Saginaw County on the northern fringe of the southeast Michigan industrial region. Saginaw is derived from "Sac-e-nong", the Sauk Indian word for Sauk Town. The Saginaw Valley is ditched and tiled to remove excess surface water to improve farming. This valley and the "Thumb" area to the east produces 99% of the nation's navy (Boston baked) beans. Michigan raises practically all the soft white winter wheat from which crackers and frozen pie shells are made, much of it here in the valley. Sugar beets are also a major crop, as well as potatoes and cabbage.
- 134 S . . Genesee County. See MP 106.



116

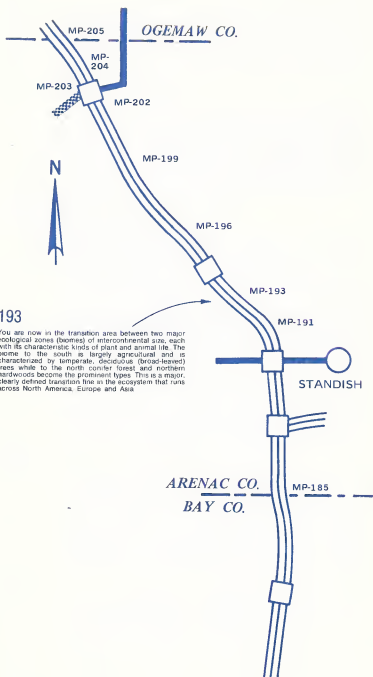
You are crossing the Flint River. One of the earliest lumber mills was opened here in the early 1830's

- 148 NS🚧 Five of the eight plants of the Saginaw Steering Gear Division of General Motors. The Division employs 10,000 people and makes steering and various other automotive parts.
- 148 SS🚧 Saginaw, a lumber capital in the old days and now largely an auto town — General Motors foundries and parts plants.
- 152 NS🚧 Crow Island State Game Area — 1,100 acres of diked wetland maintained by the state as a waterfowl refuge.
- 153 The Saginaw River saw the most intense activity of any of the river valleys involved in the gigantic Michigan white pine logging operation during and after the Civil War. In a time span of about 40 years, 13,500,000,000 board feet of timber (more than 100,000,000 logs) were rafted to the more than 100 sawmills lining the 10 miles of river from Saginaw to Bay City. The rivers in this valley, some of which you cross, which floated logs to the mills have the picturesque names of Tittabawassee, Cass, Flint, Shiawassee, Bad, Beaver, Pine, Chippewa, Tobacco and Molasses.
- 154 The Zilwaukee Bridge is one of 13 bascule-type drawbridges on the Michigan highway system. It will soon be replaced by a high-level bridge allowing a constant flow of traffic.
- 152 SS🚧 A familiar silhouette across the valley horizon — grain storage silos. These particular ones serve foreign ships in Saginaw River.
- 157 Bay County, which extends along Saginaw Bay, is the heart of sugar beet country. Over one million tons of sugar produced in 1974; and the county was the scene of one of the earliest attempts to raise sugar beets in America — 1888.
- 157 NS🚧 Note the rows of trees planted to form "windbreaks" to control wind erosion and protect young plants from wind damage — a vital soil conservation measure promoted by Michigan's Soil Conservation Districts.
- 157 S . . Saginaw County. See MP 134.
- 162 NS🚧 Bay City, two miles away on the northbound side, is the most northerly of Michigan's larger industrial cities. Here are the only shipbuilding facilities in the state — produced U.S. Navy ships in WW II, and now super-freighters. Sugar beet processing is a major industry.
- 163 SS🚧 A much altered white board church in the Greek Revival style, common in mid-1800's.
- 166 SS🚧 Oil wells of the Kawkawlin field, producing oil from Berea sandstones (1505 feet), Dundee (2830 feet) and Detroit River (3515 feet) formations. These are Paleozoic marine deposits of Devonian age, about 405,000,000 years old. First discovered in 1938, 14,770,741 barrels have been produced through 1974.
- 168 NS🚧 An excellent example of a modern Michigan cash crop farm operation. Storage and drying facilities for corn and navy beans have a capacity of 90,000 bushels.




A number of important archaeological sites have been discovered along the Saginaw River yielding much information about life in the 600 B.C. to 1850 A.D. prehistoric and historic period.

- 185 You are entering Arenac County. The name means "sandy place" — a combination of the Latin word "arena" and Indian "ac". Primarily agricultural with dairy farms predominating. A major producer of commercial cheese.
- 185 S . . Bay County. See MP 157.
- 191 You are crossing glacial Lake Warren shoreline. Note the change from the wave-cut bench to the rolling topography of the moraine.
- 191 S . . Glacial Lake Plain. See MP 130.
- 193 You are now in the Port Huron moraine of the Saginaw ice lobe (13,000 years ago), the most prominent morainic system of all. It may be traced, with few breaks, from Minnesota to New York, marking a major readvance of the ice.
- 196 Aspen forest is starting to appear, a transitional forest type that took over on poorer sandy soils after conifers (pines) were logged off. Aspen is abundant in the north. It is an important pulpwood tree and large quantities are regularly harvested. Generally provides good wildlife habitat — deer, snowshoe hare, ruffed grouse, woodcock, beaver — and good blueberry picking. When aspen is cut or burned-over, suckers sprout from roots in profusion. The new stands are soon regenerated.
- 199 You are now in the Tittabawassee River State Forest, 153,000 acres of state-owned land covered principally by aspen, oak, lowland brush, lowland hardwood, and a scattering of conifer forest. The state forest system, established in 1903, consists of 33 forests containing 3,751,816 acres of state-owned land, most acquired through tax reversion of abandoned, cut-over burned-over timberlands and farms. The state forests are still interspersed with many private holdings.
- 203 Well-preserved examples of stump fences, plus stumps still in place — reminders of the white pine logging days of the last century. This is typical "white pine plains" country, once covered by pine forest and almost completely logged off between the Civil War and the turn of the century when Michigan was the pine capital of the world and supplied much of the lumber that built the midwest. It is conservatively estimated that 160,000,000,000 board feet were cut, at an average of 200 to the log. One giant tree yielded over 8,000 feet. In 1871, not the peak year by any means, 25,000 loggers labored in Michigan woods in 800 camps. The peak year was probably 1890 after which there was a rapid decline as the forests vanished. The aftermath was a fruitless and discouraging attempt to crop farm the sandy cut-over land, and devastating forest fires that roared unchecked through the slashings, finally brought under control in the 1920's.
- 203 S . . Tittabawassee State Forest. See MP 199.
- 204 NS▲ This water is a beaver pond containing an inactive lodge. Beaver floodings can be highly beneficial to wildlife habitat. The beaver is still a common fur bearing animal in northern Michigan, and a carefully regulated trapping season is open briefly each spring.
- 205 You are now in Ogemaw County, derived from "Ogima", meaning chief or boss in the Ottawa or Ojibway language. The land is hilly, cluttered with differing soil types, moisture retention is a problem making farming somewhat difficult. This is primarily recreation and timber land.
- 205 S . . Arenac County. See MP 185.

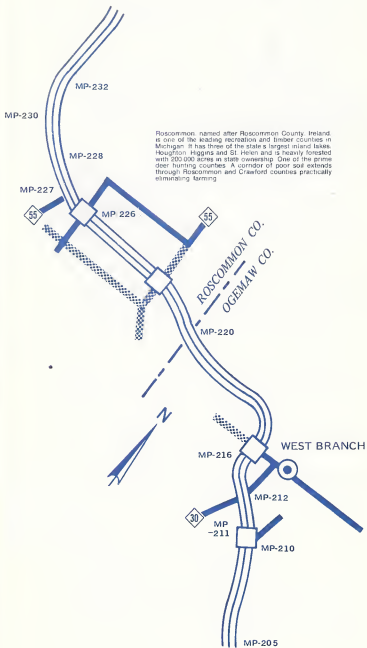



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You are now in the transition area between two major ecological zones (biomes) of intercontinental size, each with its characteristic kinds of plant and animal life. The biome to the south is largely agricultural and is characterized by temperate, deciduous (broad-leaved) trees while to the north conifer forest and northern hardwoods become the prominent types. This is a major, clearly defined transition line in the ecosystem that runs across North America, Europe and Asia.

- 205 You are now in the 80,000 acre Ogemaw State Forest. The cover is jack pine, aspen, and oak.
- 209 S . . Ogemaw State Forest. See MP 205.
- 210 Geologically, you are on a till plain.
- 211 A pocket of fertile soil exists here, near West Branch, supporting considerable farming, mostly dairy. Oats, wheat and hay are grown.
- 212 These hills form the West Branch Lake Border moraines of the Saginaw ice lobe, consisting of sands and gravel. Note the gravel pits associated with the moraine.
- 217 This rolling morainic landscape is principally forested with an oak-aspen mixture, important wildlife habitat that produces acorns for deer, squirrels, wild turkeys. When logged off at maturity, oak and aspen sprouts provide food and cover for deer, grouse and others. Enough mature oak is always left to provide a good supply of acorns. In some of the steeper valleys between the moraines are small grassy openings kept free of tree growth by frequent late spring frosts.
- 220 S . . Ogemaw County. See MP 205.
- 220 You are now passing through the 188,000 acre Houghton Lake State Forest dedicated in 1903 as one of the first two state forests. Reforestation of cut-over, burned-over timber lands by artificial pine plantings started here in 1904. By 1974, 421,000 acres (requiring 330 million trees) of state-owned land had been planted with nursery raised trees.
- 226 This is a cedar swamp deeryard. Many of the coniferous swamps in northern Michigan are used for shelter by deer during periods of severe cold and deep snow and are called "deeryards". The edges are managed to provide food. These swamps have a fragile ecosystem that must be protected from development and treated with care by trained foresters and biologists.
- 227 This is an extensive outwash plain which alternates with moraines to about MP 310. This broad relatively flat area of outwash represents the drainageways to the south-west for glacial meltwaters.
- 328S . . . NS  Fire tower. See MP 326
- 228 Note the charred stumps along the highway and in the median strip, reminders of the vast forest fires which swept over Michigan during and after the logging era. Prior to effective forest fire control in 1920's, more than 10 million acres of land was kept unused and unproductive by fires for two generations. Over 3,000 fires occurred per year on an average. Many reached tremendous proportions burning unchecked for weeks and months. These holocausts probably destroyed more timber than was cut.
- 230 Houghton Lake, Michigan's largest inland lake lies directly west about six miles (not visible), with Higgins Lake just to the north. The first state nursery to produce seedlings for reforestation of cut over timber lands, and for sale to the public, was established on Higgins Lake in 1904.
- 232 You are in the Backus Creek State Game Area, 3,667 acres managed by the state primarily for wildlife and hunting. Two major impoundments (about 1,000 acres) (not visible) create good waterfowl habitat.

Roscommon, named after Roscommon County, Ireland, is one of the leading recreation and timber counties in Michigan. It has three of the state's largest inland lakes, Houghton, Higgins and St. Helen and is heavily forested with 200,000 acres in state ownership. One of the prime deer hunting counties, a corridor of poor soil extends through Roscommon and Crawford counties practically eliminating farming.



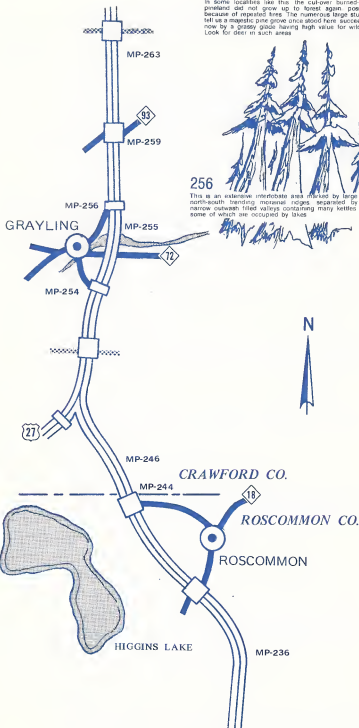
- 236 Jack pine forest. Dense stands have grown up in some places following the post logging fires. Jack pine cones, requiring heat to open, released large quantities of seed to the burned over ground. This often produced typical pure even aged stands you see here. Mature jack pine is usually harvested for pulpwood.
- 244 You are now in Crawford County, a prime resort area with much of the land in state and federal ownership. Two world famous trout streams, the AuSable and Manistee, rise here and flow in opposite directions to lakes Huron and Michigan. The endangered "Kirtland's Warbler" nests only in this general area. I-75 traverses the county through the AuSable River State Forest.
- 244 S . . Roscommon County. See MP 220.
- 244 This lowland was the site of a short-lived lake in early post-glacial time.
- 244 S . . Houghton Lake State Forest. See MP 220.
- 244 This is the AuSable State Forest, 153,000 acres. Principal cover types are jack pine, oak, aspen and grass.
- 244 On both sides of the freeway are 10-year old plantings of jack pine. Stands of this size are typical of those used by the Kirtland's Warbler, an endangered species. Those still in existence nest only under jack pine eight to ten feet in height that have generated following a fire. No other site is acceptable to this colorful bird. Considerable effort is being taken to enlarge and protect its nesting habitat. It winters in the Bahamas.
- 246 NS➤ Planting of red pine on private land made in 1960.
- 246 Here is a natural stand of red and white pine — the climax vegetation on the poorer soils of northern Michigan. Prior to the logging era, red and white pine covered 10,000,000 acres of Michigan's 35,500,000 acres of forest.
- 254 SS➤ Grayling, Michigan's pioneer winter sports city. Named for a trout-like fish which was once plentiful in the AuSable River, now extinct in Michigan. Home of world famous Bear Archery Company. A shore-to-shore hiking and horseback riding trail crosses here along a route from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan. Grayling, like so many northern Michigan communities, had its origin and heyday in the lumber era. In the following economic decline some became ghost towns, but most survived to again prosper in the recreation and tourist era beginning in the 1920's.
- 255 The AuSable River is one of the best and most famous trout streams in the nation, flowing 195 miles from central Michigan to Lake Huron. A logging stream in the old days, it now flows through rolling cut-over pine country, presently taken over by second and third growth aspen, oak and pine.
- 256 SS➤ This white pine plantation on county-owned land was started in 1930.
- 259  NS➤ You are now in Hartwick Pines State Park, 9,155 acres, the largest state park in the Lower Peninsula. The principal feature is 49 acres of virgin white pine which somehow escaped the lumberman's axe, now preserved to help perpetuate the story of pine lumbering in conjunction with an interpretive museum.
- 263 NS➤ An abandoned apple orchard, a reminder of the attempt to farm this sandy, cut-over soil, and subsequent return to state ownership by tax reversion.

In some localities like this the cut-over burned-over pineland did not grow up to forest again, possibly because of repeated fires. The numerous large stumps tell us a majestic pine grove once stood here, succeeded now by a grassy glade having high value for wildlife. Look for deer in such areas.



256

This is an extensive interlobate area marked by large north-south trending moraine ridges, separated by narrow outwash filled valleys containing many kettles, some of which are occupied by lakes.



- 268 NS👉 A 110 acre forest area harvested in 1972 by the clear cutting method for forest products and wildlife management. Tree reproduction, herbs and shrubs already provide wildlife habitat scarce in mature forests. This area will again be available for timber harvest in 40-50 years.
- 268 S . . AuSable State Forest. See MP 244.
- 269 S . . Crawford County. See MP 244.
- 269 You are in a part of the Otsego State Forest that is heavily interspersed with private holdings. Principal cover is aspen, northern hardwood, jack pine and oak. Wildlife species are deer, bear, bobcat, beaver, grouse and woodcock. ↵
- 271 SS👉 An extraordinary scenic view — outwash filled valley with a north-south moraine behind it.
- 273 S . . Otsego State Forest. See MP 269.
- 279 SS👉 The plant of U.S. Plywood Division of Champion International Corp. It produces flakeboard from wood chips obtained mostly within a 100 mile radius.
- 280 This is a broad, high level outwash plain of sand and gravel. Gaylord is located on this plain.
- 280 You are now on the 45th Parallel of latitude, exactly halfway between the equator and the north pole. A marked shore-to-shore automobile driving trail — the Polar Equator Trail — roughly follows the 45th parallel across Michigan.
- 281 NS👉 Gaylord, a center in northern Michigan for recreation services. Note the Alpine architectural theme throughout the business district indicative of the area's heavy snowfall and winter sports emphasis.
- 282 NS👉 A pine plantation which acts as a windbreak for blowing sand and snow.
- 283 You are now climbing onto the frontal slope of the Port Huron moraine (See MP 193) which forms the divide separating the north flowing Sturgeon-Black-Pigeon-Boyne stream systems from the south flowing Manistee drainages.
- 288 SS👉 A beautiful scenic view overlooking an outwash valley containing town of Vanderbilt.
- 288 NS👉 The "Pigeon River Country", a beautiful, wild area noted for the only elk herd east of the Mississippi. It was logged between 1860 and 1910, then suffered severe burning. Fire protection, natural growth and planting have now resulted in reforestation of 90% of the land.
- 291-310 You are now on a 19 mile section of freeway (MP 291-310) that in 1963 a national magazine named as the most scenic stretch of new highway in the country.
- 292 I-75 is climbing onto a morainic high it will traverse to about MP 310. Note north-south trending moraine on either side of road.
- 294 Cheboygan County. Cheboygan is an Indian word associated with rivers. Recreation services and general farming are the main pursuits. The famous Inland Water Route is here, a continuous 45 mile chain of lakes and rivers.
- 294 S . . Otsego County. See MP 269.

CHEBOYGAN CO.

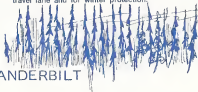
OTSEGO CO.

MP-294

C-48

MP-291

A conifer swamp used by deer, bear and bobcat as a travel lane and for winter protection.



MP-288

VANDERBILT

This is cattle ranching country where beef calves are raised for fattening in feedlots to the south. The soil and climate is generally more conducive to pasture than cash crops. Calves are usually born in early spring and sold in the fall.

You are passing through typical farm country for this region — dairy and beef cattle.

MP-283

MP-282

GAYLORD

MP-281

F-42

MP-279

273

This is a climax (final phase in the process of plant succession) forest of northern hardwood timber types typical of better soils, primarily sugar maple with various mixtures of beech, yellow birch, basswood, elm and other hardwood species — the end of the line in forest succession.

MP-273

MP-271

WATERS


MP-269

CRAWFORD CO.

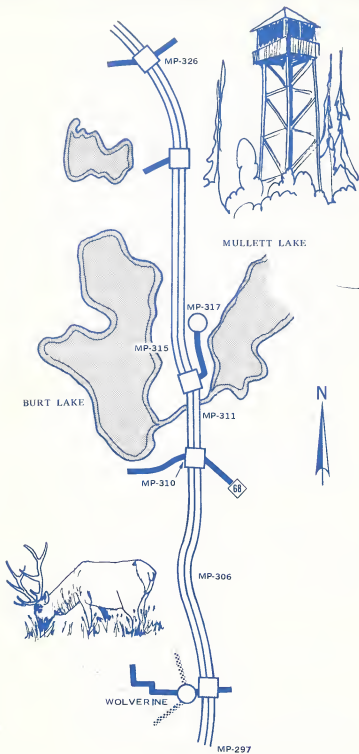
MP-268

You are now in another prime recreation county, Otsego, but it is also one of the 'islands' of fertile soil in northern Michigan with considerable farming — potatoes, Christmas trees, strawberries, beef cattle. The highest point in the Lower Peninsula is here, 1,348 feet. Annual snowfall is 125". Otsego is the Iroquois Indian name for 'clear water' or 'meeting place'.

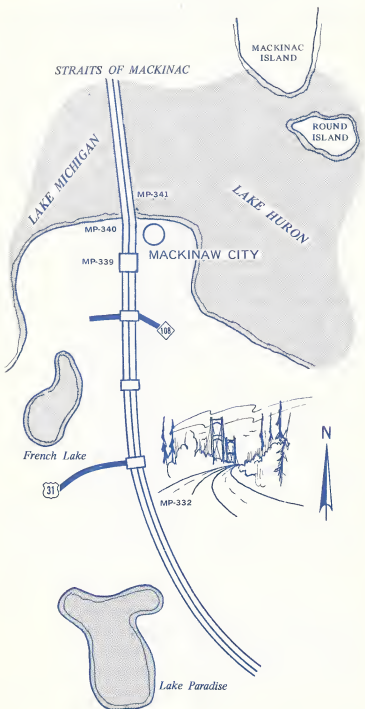


- 297 Michigan's elk herd originated one mile east of here. Eight elk from Yellowstone National Park were released along the Sturgeon River in 1918.
- 307 The roadway is descending from the Port Huron moraine to the Algonquin Lake Plain, one of the more prominent of the glacial lakes. During Algonquin time (12,000+ years ago) the southern and northern peninsulas were separated by a strait extending from MP 307 to a point north of MP 394. (Sault Ste. Marie.)
- 307 S . . Port Huron Moraine. See MP 283.
- 310 S . . Outwash Plain. See MP 237.
- 311 The precise origin of this lowland followed by the Inland Waterway has not been worked out, but is related to the underlying bedrock.
- 311 Indian River is part of the Inland Waterway by which Indians and traders in the 18th century could reach Little Traverse Bay (Petoskey) without using the Straits of Mackinac. It can still be traveled its entire 45-mile length.
- 315 A high morainic area — formerly islands in the broad Algonquin Strait.
- 317 At this rest area is a graphic description of the geology of the I-75 route.
- 326 NS  A fire tower on the horizon — one of many that were part of the system bringing forest fires under control. Now largely replaced by aircraft.



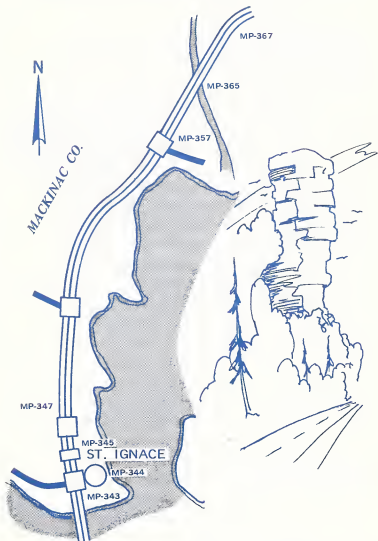


- 334 NS➤ Directly ahead (northbound) is your first glimpse (on a clear day) of Mackinac Bridge. "Mighty Mac", a five mile long suspension bridge connecting the Upper and Lower Michigan peninsulas, opened in 1957, is ranked as one of the world's engineering marvels. Distance between cable anchorages is 8,614 feet, longest in the world. Underclearance is 155 feet. Towers rise 552' above the water.
- 337 NS➤ Just south of MP 337 in a low roadcut is the first glimpse of bedrock occurring along I-75 coming from the south.
- 339 S . . Cheboygan County. See MP 294.
- 339 SS➤ Fort Michilimackinac, a British fort during the American Revolutionary War, obliterated for almost 200 years but now reconstructed by the State of Michigan according to the most careful research of archaeologists and historians. First built by the French in 1715, taken over by the British in 1761, it was abandoned and partially moved in 1779-81 to Mackinac Island, a more defensible location. It is now a National Historic Landmark.
- 339 NS➤ The Marine Section of Fort Michilimackinac Historic Park. Prominent features are the sailing sloop *Welcome* and the Mackinac Point Lighthouse. The original "Welcome" built here in 1775 was used by the British in transferring the Fort to Mackinac Island in 1780. It is now being reconstructed, full scale, from original plans by the hand methods of 1700's, as a Bicentennial project. The lighthouse was completed in 1892 and discontinued in 1950's — is now a marine museum.
- 340 NS➤ As you cross the Bridge, you will see Mackinac Island, a National Historic Landmark, on the northbound side about six miles away, called "The Turtle" by the Indians who felt it resembled one in outline. It was purchased by the British in 1779 from the Chippewa Indians for 5000 pounds as a fort site more defensible than Michilimackinac and transferred to the U.S. by the Treaty of Paris which settled the Revolutionary War. Recaptured by the British in the War of 1812, it was again ceded to the U.S. following that war. In the mid 1800's, John Jacob Astor established one of the largest business enterprises of the day, American Fur Company with headquarters on the Island. The white structure is the Grand Hotel, one of the largest and most opulent of the wooden resort hotels of the last century. Built of virgin white pine in 1887, enlarged and remodeled in 1897, 1912 and 1919, it is still a magnificent structure and a going concern. The Fort and several other historic structures are maintained by the state, which owns 80% of the Island. The Governor's summer residence is here. No autos are allowed by state laws. The only remaining Revolutionary War structure in Michigan is on the Island — Officer's Stone Quarters at Fort Mackinac.
- 340 NS➤ Mackinac Island displays evidence of two former glacial lake levels in the form of notches clearly seen in silhouette. The upper notch near the southeastern end of the Island and surmounted by a rounded hill, is related to wave action of Lake Algonquin — the lower, closer to the southeastern end, is a result of shore erosion by the waters of Lake Nipissing.
- 341 SS➤ Lake Michigan, 6th largest lake in the world, was discovered in 1634 by Nicolet searching for a way to the Orient for the French.



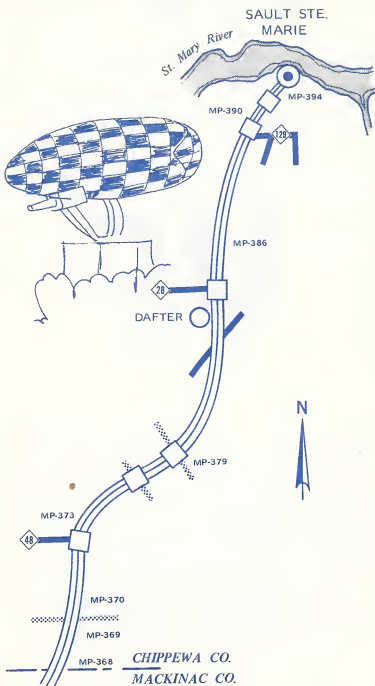
- 341 Mackinac Bridge spans a 290 foot deep submerged valley cut by stream drainage between the two lake basins at times of greatly lowered lake levels during late and post Pleistocene time.
- 341 NS➤ Just south of Mackinac Island is Round Island and the Round Island Lighthouse. The Lighthouse has been a landmark for Great Lakes travelers since it was built in 1873. No longer in use, deteriorating, a strong movement is now underway to preserve it. Round Island, including the lighthouse, is federal property administered by the U.S. Forest Service. It is uninhabited. A little known historical fact is that it was the scene of a skirmish between the British and Americans in 1814.
- 343 Mackinac County. Laid out under the name of Michilimackinac in 1818, it was organized in 1849.
- 343 SS➤ The Father Marquette Unit of the Straits State Park. A commemorative development that pays tribute to the work of (the Jesuit missionary and explorer) Father Jacques Marquette, throughout The Great Lakes Region.
- 343 You are in a series of road cuts that provide access to Mackinac Bridge developed in the Mackinac breccia, a coarse grained bedrock resulting from a collapse, composed of broken fragments that have become cemented together over time.
- 343 S . . First view of Bridge, southbound. See MP 332.
- 343 NS➤ Near here, the Lasenen archaeological site has yielded much insight into the 1670-1700 period, when Europeans first made contact with American Indians in this region.
- 344 NS➤ The city of St. Ignace, gateway to the Upper Peninsula, was established in 1671 as a Jesuit Mission and a fur trading center adjacent to a large Huron and Ottawa Indian village. In 1683, the French built Fort De Buade where downtown St. Ignace now stands.
- 345 NS➤ Just visible is the cross on the St. Ignace Mission where Father Marquette is buried. The site was chosen by Father Marquette in 1741 and the mission founded in 1752.
- 348 SS➤ A classic example of a sea stack, known locally as Castle Rock, composed of Mackinac breccia, formed in Lake Nipissing. There are others nearby and on Mackinac Island. A sea stack is a small, pillar-like, rocky mass near the cliffy shore of a former sea, detached from a headland by wave erosion and weathering.
- 348 You are in Hiawatha National Forest, over one million acres of federally owned land touching Lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron, that is the picturesque setting of Longfellow's ballad "The Song of Hiawatha."
- 350 Between MP 350 and 394, you are on the relatively featureless Algonquin Lake Plain broken occasionally by low dunes, beaches or bedrock highs.
- 365 Crossing the Pine River, well known in Upper Peninsula lumber days. Red color is due to clay river bed.
- 367 S . . Hiawatha National Forest. See MP 348.
- 367 You are on the Niagaran Escarpment, a bedrock outcrop particularly resistant to erosion. This long curving escarpment extends from Milwaukee, Wisconsin around the margin of the Great Lakes to Rochester, New York. The Niagara River plunges over the escarpment at Niagara Falls.

You are traveling through a conifer swamp known locally as St. Martin Bay deeryard. Deer from the surrounding countryside seek shelter in winter in the dense conifer forest, subsisting largely on residual from forest cutting operations. These large swamps are also favored habitat for bears and bobcats.



The Straits and surrounding waters is a graveyard of sunken ships — 148 recorded losses. (There are over 1,500 in Michigan waters of the Great Lakes). The majority occurred between the Civil War and the turn of the century when shipping increased at an unbelievable rate, many ships were in poor condition and there were few navigational aids. This, plus tumultuous spring and fall weather, few protected harbors, fog, smoke (from forest fires) led to many disasters here where lanes converged.

- 368 You are in Chippewa County, organized in 1826 and named after the Indian tribe in this area.
- 368 S . . Mackinac County. See MP 343.
- 369 This is one of the few small scattered farming areas in the Upper Peninsula. Agriculture is confined to dairy farming and production of hay, barley and potatoes. This is due in part to the fact that the glaciers stripped much of the soil, sometimes all of it, from the bedrock, the growing season is short, and in this area the water table is close to the surface.
- 370 You are in Munuscong State Forest, 121,000 acres. Principal cover is aspen, lowland conifers, northern hardwoods, lowland brush, upland spruce fir.
- 372 S . . A dramatic view of the Niagaran Escarpment is directly ahead. See MP 367 for description.
- 379 NS▲ One mile away, but not quite visible, is Kincheloe Air Force Base, 6,000 acres of land established as part of the North American Air Defense Command during the Korean War. It has a military and dependent population of about 9,000.
- 386 Near here (not visible), is Bay Mills, one of four Michigan Indian Reservations; ceded to the Chippewas in the Washington Treaty of 1836.
- 390 SS▲ A radar station that is part of the defense network for the Soo Locks.
- 394 To the north is the International Bridge to Canada. Opened in 1962 it is a series of eight arch and truss bridges crossing the St. Mary's River, the boundary between Canada and the U.S.
- 394 NS▲ The world famous "Soo Locks" are just east of International Bridge. The Locks overcome a natural barrier to navigation, the St. Mary's Rapids, where the water falls about 21 feet from the level of Lake Superior toward the level of the lower lakes. The first modern lock was opened in 1855. An average of 17,000 vessels per year now pass through the Locks carrying, among other things, two-thirds of the iron ore produced in the U.S. and Canada. There are four locks, the largest of which will accommodate ships 1,000' long and 105' wide. This site is a National Historic Landmark referred to as St. Mary's Falls Canal.
- 394 S . . See MP 350 and 306 for description of lake plain.
- 394 NS▲ The St. Mary's River, the only outlet to Lake Superior, falls over 22 feet in the 63 miles to Lake Huron.
- 394 NS▲ The City of Sault Ste. Marie, settled in 1671, is the northern terminus of I-75. This city has always been an important way station for passing traffic, with a rich historical background. One of the oldest structures in the Midwest, the home of fur trader John Johnston, still stands as does the home of Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, Indian agent whose letters describing Indian life to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow inspired the poem "Hiawatha".
- 394 This is the end, or the beginning, of Michigan's Freedom Way. Either way, it is hoped this log makes travel along it more interesting as we all celebrate the Bicentennial year in our nation's history.

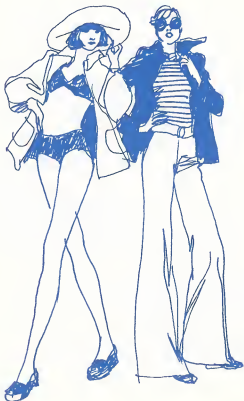


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